

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 14, 2013  
MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Town Clerk Mary Stanton called the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. The Town Clerk read the Notice and Warning of the Meeting and explained the eligibility requirements for voting. She then requested nominations for Moderator.

Deputy Mayor Toni Moran nominated Ron Schurin to serve as Moderator. Hearing no other nominations the nominations were closed. Motion to approve Mr. Schurin as Moderator passed unanimously.

Without objection Town Clerk Mary Stanton was appointed secretary to the meeting and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien was appointed as the parliamentarian. A request to stipulate the adoption of Roberts Rules of Order was approved without objection. Mr. Schurin outlined the procedures for those wishing to speak and requested citizens limit their comments to five minutes.

Mr. Schurin recognized Mayor Elizabeth Paterson who thanked her fellow Council members and Town staff for their work on the budget. The proposed budget was unanimously approved by the Council. The Mayor also thanked the staff and members of the Boards of Education for their work. Mayor Paterson noted the amount of state revenues we will receive is still in flux but that the Town will continue to work with our Legislators.

Mr. Schurin introduced the Chair of the Council's Finance Committee Bill Ryan and Mansfield Board of Education's Chair Mark LaPlaca to present a more detailed explanation of the budget.

Councilor Ryan reviewed the General Fund Budget including the general government expenditure trends and cost drivers.

Board of Education Chair Mark LaPlaca noted this is the fifth year in a row that the Board's budget has not increased. The Board voted to support the original budget but does not support the proposed budget. Mr. LaPlaca stated the Board is willing to work with the Council to make cuts if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Ryan reviewed highlights of the Revenue Fund, the Capital Fund and the Capital Non-recurring Fund. In summary, Mr. Ryan noted the tax impact on the median single family residence would be an increase of about 1.03 mills or about a \$174 tax increase for the year, for a total percentage increase of 3.81%. The Council has decided not to set the mill rate until the state revenue picture becomes clearer.

Mr. Ryan offered the following resolutions for consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 in the amount of \$35,483,330 which proposed budget was adopted by the Council on April 24, 2013, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 in the amount of \$ 2,285,290 be adopted provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 in the amount of \$ 1,194,860 be adopted.

The motion was seconded.

Moderator Ron Schurin outlined the process for making amendments to the proposed budget and the voting process. Mr. Schurin asked for comments on the budget.

Mary Hirsch, Courtyard Lane, moved to amend the budget by adding \$200,000 to the General Fund Education Budget (60001). Ms. Hirsch commented that although she thinks the budget is good, she is not happy with the most recent cuts to the Board's budget.

The motion was seconded.

Martin Sommer, Warrentown Road, stated education is the most important service the Town provides. Mr. Sommer does not believe the cuts to technical services and supplies are prudent.

Councilor Ryan clarified that the amendment would add two tenths of a mill to the projected mill rate.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, believes Mansfield has an excellent education system and he is willing to pay more to support the schools.

The question on the motion to amend was called, seconded, and received the required two thirds vote.

The amendment passed on a voice vote. Discussion on the motion, as amended, continued.

Jeannette Picard, Timber Drive, commented Mansfield is a wonderful Town which provides great services and she believes it is time to spend a little more money to protect these services. She supports the amended budget.

No additional comments were offered.

The Moderator called for a vote on the appropriations as amended.

The vote was by paper ballot.

Those in favor were 151 and those opposed were 37. The budget passed.

The meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

